**Gold Reserves**

124. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the gold reserves for exploration in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether private players have evinced interest in participating in the exploration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how much gold is expected to be produced by these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines, as on 1.4.2005, the total resources of gold ore (Primary) available in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are as under:

(in million tonnes)

| State | Total resources |
|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 12.09 |
| Chhattisgarh | 0.90 |
| Karnataka | 66.17 |
| Orissa | — |
| Madhya Pradesh | 7.32 |
| Rajasthan | 65.59 |

(b) to (d) Thirty prior approvals have been conveyed by the Central Government for grant of reconnaissance permits and prospecting licences for exploration of gold to private companies in the country since 01.04.2004 to 31.3.2007. Details of the same are available at the website of Ministry of Mines (http://mines.nic.in). The production of gold depends on mining which would commence only after exploration activities are completed.

**Mining contracts by BALCO**

†125. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies which were awarded contract by Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) on the 11th December, 1999 and 29th April, 2002 for bauxite mining from the mines of Menpat in Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh and to supply it to Korba Aluminium Plant;

(b) the names of the companies, out of then, which completed the work on time as per the agreement;

(c) the names of each company whose amount is outstanding with Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO), Chhattisgarh and since when it is outstanding; and

(d) the reasons of non-payment to them till now and by when the amount would be paid?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As informed by the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), M/S R. K. Transport Company was awarded contract on 11.12.1999 and 29.4.2002 for mining and transportation of bauxite from the Company's mines at Mainpat to its alumina plant at Korba.

(b) to (d) BALCO has informed that the tenure of both the contracts are over. However, M/s R.K. Transport Company had filed applications for appointment of Arbitrator under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 in the Hon'ble High Court of Chhattisgarh for settlement of disputes relating to payments for the contracts mentioned above and hence the matter is sub-judice.

**Task force for socio-economic condition of muslims**

126. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force appointed by Government to suggest a roadmap for improving the socio-economic condition of muslim minority community, has submitted its recommendations to Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the task force; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c): An inter-ministerial Task Force to examine the implications of the geographical distribution of minorities in India was set up on 2nd March, 2007 with the following terms of reference:—

(i) To identify towns/cities having substantial concentration of minority population requiring special attention;

(ii) to formulate multi-sectoral plan for provision of basic civic amenities such as housing, schools and educational facilities, health facilities and employment opportunities for urban localities having substantial concentration of minority population within such towns/cities;

(iii) To identify existing schemes/programmes from which funds could be channelised to such urban localities for implementation of multi-sectoral plans;

(iv) To suggest schemes for funding the resource gap of projects included in the multi-sectoral plan and also for funding specific projects which are not covered under any of the existing scheme/programme.

The Task Force has submitted its report only on 8th November, 2007.

**Welfare schemes for minorities**

127. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal during the last three years to address the problems being faced by minorities, especially the muslims;

(b) if so, the details thereof especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps Government had taken for the welfare of muslims during the last three years in each State?